

**Introduced by Senator Liu**

January 21, 2009

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 10—Relative to Railroad Safety Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 10, as introduced, Liu. Railroad Safety Month.

This measure would designate September as "Railroad Safety Month."

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Freight train operators, Amtrak, commuter rail  
2 operators, and multiple heavy and light rail systems run through  
3 densely populated areas of California on a daily basis; and  
4 WHEREAS, An incident occurs on railroad property in the  
5 United States every 120 minutes; and  
6 WHEREAS, There are over 11,000 at-grade public rail grade  
7 crossings located within 52 counties and 400 cities in California;  
8 and  
9 WHEREAS, The State of California has the highest number of  
10 highway-rail grade crossing accidents in the United States. The  
11 number of accidents has increased from 142 in 2003 to 162 in  
12 2007; and  
13 WHEREAS, The State of California also has the highest number  
14 of pedestrian trespass fatalities with 122 accidents reported in  
15 2007; and  
16 WHEREAS, Trains have the right-of-way 100 percent of the  
17 time over vehicles and pedestrians; and  
18 WHEREAS, The Federal Railroad Administration, California  
19 Department of Transportation, California Public Utilities

1 Commission, California Operation Lifesaver, and freight and  
2 passenger rail operators are working to improve railroad safety  
3 and to educate children and adults of the dangers around railroad  
4 operations; and

5 WHEREAS, State and federal safety programs, including the  
6 Grade Separation Program, the Automatic Grade Crossing  
7 Protection Maintenance Fund, and the Federal Railway-Highway  
8 Crossing Improvement Program, all raise rail safety awareness  
9 and have contributed to the decline in train accidents this year as  
10 compared to the same period last year; and

11 WHEREAS, With growth in passenger and freight rail traffic  
12 expected to double in 15 years and more than 10 million new  
13 residents arriving in the state over the same time period, current  
14 funding levels are insufficient to keep pace with needed rail safety  
15 improvements, including grade separations, overpasses, warning  
16 devices, gates, and signals; and

17 WHEREAS, Railroad operators, motor vehicle operators, and  
18 pedestrians must work together to reduce the likelihood of  
19 railroad-vehicle and railroad-pedestrian accidents; and

20 WHEREAS, September is back-to-school month for most  
21 children in California and because many of these children must  
22 cross railroad tracks to get to school, it is important to reinforce  
23 the rail safety message with children and their caretakers; now,  
24 therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
26 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby officially  
27 designates September of each year as “Railroad Safety Month” in  
28 California and commends local, state, and federal government,  
29 industry, and citizen efforts to improve railroad crossing safety  
30 and support increased funding for rail safety, and strongly urges  
31 all Californians to be cautious and safe around all railroad tracks;  
32 and be it further

33 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
34 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.